

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT
U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL, MUMBAI

PART I

Name of country: India

The U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai serves American citizens in the Indian cities of Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Diu and Daman and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

PART II

U. S. Consulate General Address and contact information:

U. S. Consulate General, C-49, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400 051
Day time phone: 022-2672-4000 (from India) or 011-91-22-2672-4000 (from the United States) After normal business hours (08:00 - 16:30 Monday through Friday), you will be directed to an Officer on Duty. Fax: 91-22-2672-4786 or 91-22-2672-4755 Email: mumbaiacs@state.gov

PART III

(1) MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL

Local regulations require that the deceased must be cremated, buried, or embalmed within 24 hours of the death. Embalmed remains can be held in cold storage until further instructions are received from the next-of-kin regarding disposition.

There is no fee on the part of the mortuary for storage of remains in the government mortuary, for a reasonable period of time (approximately 30 days). Private mortuary charges are approximately USD 40 per day.

(2) EMBALMING:

Embalming is only required when the remains are to be repatriated, and not for local burial. Embalming facilities are available in government hospitals and with private undertakers in the Mumbai Consular District. Embalming procedures can only commence with permission from local authorities, which is obtained by the authorized undertaker. The local customs and Health Department officials are cooperative during such emergencies. Delays are encountered when death occurs outside of regular business hours, when the death occurs in a place other than a hospital, or when there is no medical attendant present. Although embalming is performed by a number of facilities, methods and material used are often not to U.S. standards.

(3) CREMATION:

In India, open air cremation is common. The deceased is placed atop a funeral bier, usually adjacent to moving water, in full view of loved ones. Ashes may be disposed of immediately following cremation. The modern process of cremation occurs in a cemetery or crematorium, consisting of one or more cremator furnaces or cremation retorts for the ashes. A crematorium may be part of chapel or a funeral home, or a service offered by a cemetery. Modern cremator fuels include natural gas and propane. These cremators have adjustable control systems that monitor the furnace during cremation. A cremation furnace is not designed to cremate more than one body at a time. Cremated remains are returned to the next-of-kin in a rectangular container, contained with a further cardboard box or in an urn if the family provided one. An official certificate of cremation prepared under the authority of the crematorium accompanies the remains. If the funeral director is authorized by the family to bury or submerge the remains, a permit for local disposition of remains must stay with the cremated remains. Regulations regarding this may vary with locality.

(4) CASKETS AND CONTAINERS:

When the body of the deceased person is to be transported out of the country, the body is first embalmed and prepared for shipment. The usual procedure is to place the embalmed remains in a zinc coffin within a wooden coffin which is finally placed in a suitable packing case. The cost varies with the quality of material used. Export-quality caskets and shipping containers which meet the requirements are available for shipment out of the country.

(5) EXPORT OF REMAINS:

Remains may be repatriated when fully embalmed and placed in a hermetically sealed container.

Human remains: To export remains the following documents are required:

- (a) A death certificate or post-mortem report (cause of death may or may not be mentioned)
- (b) Embalming certificate issued by the doctor
- (c) Export authorization issued by the Health Officer, Department of Health
- (d) Consular mortuary certificate issued by the Consular officer
- (e) Affidavit by the undertaker, attesting to the contents, the embalming, and the hermetical sealing of the casket.

Human ashes: To export ashes, the following documents are required:

- (a) Cremation certificate issued by the crematorium
- (b) Official local death certificate
- (c) Consular mortuary certificate issued by the Consular officer (required by the airlines)

(6) **COSTS:**

The estimated charges shown below are based on U.S. Embassy exchange rate of (USD 1 = INR 68) as of October 21, 2013. All costs are approximate and are based on quotes received from the undertakers.

Local burial in a cemetery:

Estimated local burial costs include land charges, a masonry grave liner, a coffin prepared to regulation specifications, legal documentation, and undertaker fees. USD 650

Cremation and local burial:

Estimated cremation costs include transportation of remains to the crematorium facilities, land charges, the casket, use of hearse, cremation/burial fees, funeral director's fees, the cemetery plot, and the container for ashes. USD 680

Cremation and shipment of ashes by air to the U.S.:

Estimated costs include the casket, use of hearse, crematorium charges, container of ashes, and undertaker fees. Air shipment charges for cremated ashes are not included. The cost is calculated as per the airway bill and destination. USD 850

Delivery of ashes to US address. USD 1,200

Embalming and shipment of remains by air to the U.S.:

Price includes embalming, necessary packing cases (coffin box, inner zinc box and outer packing case,) sealing, labor, legal documentation, local transportation, and charges of the undertaker. USD 1,400

In addition to the costs indicated above, the following are the air shipment estimates for 80 kilos from Mumbai to:

East Coast (New York): USD 4,000

West Coast (Los Angeles): USD 6,000

NOTE: All prices quoted above are estimated shipping costs only and may be subject to change. In the case of deaths outside Mumbai, there will be an additional cost of transporting the body from the place of death to Mumbai.

(7) **EXHUMATION:**

Remains may be exhumed provided the required permits are obtained from the local magistrate. A statement is required to accompany the request for exhumation that indicates whether the remains are being exhumed for reburial or for cremation.

(8) **AUTOPSY:**

In India, autopsies are also known as post-mortems or post-mortem examinations. Autopsies may be performed at the request of the authorities in cases of unexplained and suspicious deaths or when a physician did not attend the death. In other circumstances, post-mortem examinations may be performed only with the consent of the deceased's family or with permission granted by the person himself or herself before death. Generally, an autopsy is only done when there is some doubt as to the cause of death, although the family of the deceased can always request an autopsy, even if the hospital does not think it necessary. The time taken to establish the medical cause of death may take 26 weeks and sometimes longer.

Contact information of the undertakers is attached.

American Citizens Services/dv
Mumbai, India

Updated: October 21, 2013